**Development of telematics (C-DOT) technology**

2000. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the department of telecommunications has proposed that only the technology developed by the Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) should be used in the Second Electronic Switching System (ESS-II) factory planned in Bangalore; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Department of Telecommunications has proposed that the C-DOT technology may also be considered as the alternative for the second Electronic Switching System (ESS-II) factory planned at Bangalore;

(b) The Government is considering the question.

**Non Payment of salaries of Jala Munugan Ship**

2001. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that crew including officers, on board Scindia Ship 'Jala Munugan' had not been paid salaries for the past four to five months;

(b) whether the Director General of Shipping has been approched to ensure the payments of wages and salaries of the seafarers;

(c) whether Government are aware that there is discontentment amongst seafarers;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof;

(e) whether workers have demanded that in the event of Government's takeover of the Scindias or the sale of Company's assets, the settlement of workers dues including terminal benefits should get top priority; and

(f) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) While wages and salaries of the seafarer constitute a maritime lien on the vessels which are first charge on the ship, Director General of Shipping has sanctioned certain amount from Seafarers Welfare Fund/Seamen's Provident Fund for meeting basic necessities.

(c) to (f) The Scindia's Employees Union and certain other unions have represented to the Government about non-payment of wages to the employees of the Scindia company. In the event of the company going into liquidation or the sale of its assets, the wages, including terminal benefits, of the seafarers would be protected under the provisions of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 as maritime liens and of the other staff working on the shore would be regulated by the normal priority of the different creditors of the company under the relevant law.

**'Pan Parag' is injurious to health**

2002. SHRI BHAGTRAM MANHAR:
SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to research work conducted by various institutions and the Cancer Institute of Bombay, the 'Pan Parag' and other similar products are injurious to health;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a large number of cases of canler detec-